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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/621,119

07/16/2003

Arthur E. Quaid

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EXAMINER

CHAO, ELMER M

ART UNIT

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3737

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/621,119	Applicant(s) QUAID ET AL.	
	Examiner ELMER CHAO	Art Unit 3737	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10,12-19,21-27,30-40,42-50,52-58,61-64 and 66-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10,12-19,21-27,30-40,42-50,52-58,61-64 and 66-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Acknowledgement is made of the amendment filed 3/9/2009.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-19, 32-38, 40, 42-48, 66, 67, 69, and 70** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. (U.S. 5,950,629) in view of Niemeyer et al. (U.S. 6,424,885 B1).

Regarding **claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12-14, and 17-19**, Taylor et al. teach a method for use of a computer-assisted surgery system during a medical procedure, comprising: receiving information on an anatomical target region of a patient (col. 20, line 22—col. 21, line 16); tracking the position of a surgical tool as the tool is moved by a surgeon in performing the medical procedure (col. 20, line 22—col. 21, line 16); determining a scalar distance between a current position of said tool and the anatomical target region (col. 13, lines 45 - 52).

Taylor et al. teach the limitations as discussed above but fail to explicitly teach the surgery used for removing tissue. However, Taylor et al. do teach using cutting instruments with the haptic device (col. 18, lines 27-53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

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the invention to modify Taylor et al. to remove tissue as it is a design choice that is performed by the necessity of a chosen surgical operation.

Taylor et al. teach the limitations as discussed above but fail to explicitly teach the object of interest being at least one haptic virtual object that represents a virtual cutting boundary of the tool. However, in the same field of endeavor, Neimeyer teach an object of interest being at least one haptic virtual object for surgery (col. 31, line 58-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include at least one haptic virtual object that represents a virtual cutting boundary for the tool in order to prevent the transgression of the surgical device beyond the surgical limitations (col. 32, lines 1-7).

Taylor et al. teach the limitations as discussed above but fail to explicitly teach an indication of scalar distance by generating an output wrench when the tool intrudes on the virtual cutting boundary. However, in the same field of endeavor, Neimeyer teach providing an indication by generating an output wrench when the tool intrudes on the virtual cutting boundary (col. 4, line 54 - col. 5, line 15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include an indication of scalar distance by generating an output wrench when the tool intrudes on the virtual cutting boundary in order to enhance the connection to the system operator (for motivation see col. 4, lines 54-59).

Regarding **claims 15 and 46**, Taylor et al. teach the step of using tactile feedback while positioning a surgical instrument (col. 8, lines 29-30).

Regarding **claims 16 and 47**, Taylor et al. teach providing a vibration as an indicator in order to assist the surgeon in position the surgical instrument (Taylor et al., col. 8, lines 30-31).

Regarding **claims 32-35, 40, 42-45, 48, 66, 67, and 70**, the system taught by Taylor et al. is fully capable of performing all the functional limitations recited in the claims.

Regarding **claims 6, 7, and 36-38**, Taylor et al. and Niemeyer et al. teach the limitations as discussed above but fail to explicitly teach the location of the display. However, providing the display with a haptics/tactile device is well known to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include integrating the display with a haptic device in order for the operator to easily watch the updated distance while controlling the tool. Furthermore, such a modification would be considered a step of making integral (see *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965)).

4. **Claims 8 and 39** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. in view of Niemeyer et al., and further in view of Sumanaweera et al. (U.S. 6,443,894 B1). Taylor et al. and Niemeyer et al. teach the limitations as discussed above but fail to explicitly teach using color as a visual indicator. However, in the field of medical imaging, Sumanaweera et al. teach using color as a visual indicator (col. 13, lines 48-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to use color as a function of distance as the visual indicator in order to alert the user of the distance between the tool and the target (for motivation see (col. 13, lines 50-52, "color is assigned for different distances").

5. **Claims 21-24 25-27, 30, 31, 49, 50, 52-57, 58, 61-64, 68, 71, and 72** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. in view of Niemeyer et al., and further in view of Wodicka et al. (U.S. 5,445,144).

Regarding **claims 21, 22, 25-27, 30, 31, 49, 50, 52-54, 57, 58, 61-64, 68, 71, and 72**, Taylor et al. and Niemeyer et al. teach the limitations as discussed above but fail to explicitly teach an audio alert based on distance. However, in the field of medical positioning, Wodicka et al. teach using audio alerts based on distance (col. 14, lines 42-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an audio alert in order to alert the user of a distance or position status of the tool (for motivation see col. 14, lines 42-45).

Regarding **claims 23, 24, and 55**, Taylor et al., Niemeyer et al., and Wodicka et al. teach the limitations as discussed above but fail to explicitly teach the positioning of the audio alert system. However, providing the alert system as integrated with a haptics/tactile device is well known to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include integrating the display with a haptic device in order for the operator to easily hear the updated distance while controlling the tool. Furthermore, such a modification would be considered a step of making

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integral (see *In re Larson*, 340 F.2d 965, 968, 144 USPQ 347, 349 (CCPA 1965)).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELMER CHAO whose telephone number is

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(571)272-0674. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on (571)272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3737

/E. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3737